



# CALPEEK

## CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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### 49<sup>th</sup> AD SPECIAL: CHU WINS ASSEMBLY SEAT WITH 58%. IS THE "OLD BOY" LATINO NETWORK DEAD??

Editor's note: Monterey Park Councilwoman Judy Chu won the May 15<sup>th</sup> special election to replace new State Sen. Gloria Romero(D). Chu received 58.54% beating her nearest Demo rivals, Alhambra Councilman Dan Arguello with 33.66% and Alhambra school board member Robert Miranda who got 5.31%. Libertarian Kim Goldsworthy got 2.49%. On election day, Chu got 50.9% of the vote vs. 41.6% for Arguello, but the tale of this special were the absentee ballots: Chu got 71% of the absentee ballot votes. With Chu getting a majority, she has avoided a July 10<sup>th</sup> runoff. Here's our report & analysis...

...Going into the last week of this special election, it was *not* a sure bet Chu would beat Arguello, despite the fact that at least two different polls showed her ahead in double digits. The 49<sup>th</sup> AD has a large Latino voting population and it was not known if they would support a non-Latino candidate. But Chu put together a solid multi-ethnic coalition and thus had *cross-over appeal*. And while some may say that Chu's election is just another indication that the "Old Boy Latino Network" has seen better days, other sources don't necessarily agree. It may be that Arguello just wasn't the right candidate at this time. Whatever the case, Arguello was the third male Latino to be defeated by a woman (Solis, Romero and now Chu) in recent elections...

...During the last week of the campaign, Arguello pumped out more mail than Chu and when all the contributions are combined (regular + independent expenditures), sources says both sides will have spent about \$360,000. The big IE for Arguello was the Calif. Latino Alliance, with Fabian Nunez as chair. Nunez used to be with the L.A. Co. Federation of Labor, but is now with the LAUSD...

...The *big* winner (in addition to Chu) was U.S. Rep. Hilda Solis(D), who endorsed and campaigned for Chu. And although she endorsed both Chu and Arguello, sources *don't* see Sen. Gloria Romero as a winner here because toward the end of the special it became very obvious that she was helping Arguello and *refused* to allow Chu to use her name or

photo in direct mail...

...For those who didn't know it, during her 24<sup>th</sup> SD special election battle with former Assemblyman Martin Gallegos (D), Romero promised both Chu and Arguello that she would endorse them for her 49<sup>th</sup> AD seat in return for their help in her special. So why did Romero help Arguello? Sources believe she was pressured by the Latino Caucus in Sacto, who didn't want to loose this seat to a non-Latino. By helping Arguello, sources believe Romero would be mending some political fences. In Romero's special, the Caucus was with Gallegos...

...FYI: critical \$\$ help to Chu at the end of the campaign came from the CA Assn. of Realtors and from SEIU State Council. One of the last Chu mailers to go to voters was an endorsement letter from ALADS, combined with a copy of the San Gabriel Valley Tribune editorial endorsement of Chu. A nice win for consultants Steve Gray-Barkan & Parke Skelton. Stay tuned...

### CAMPAIGN 2002: SIMON STEPS UP TO THE PLATE. IS HE THE FRESH FACE THAT CALIF. GOPers NEED??

Editor's note: Calpeek didn't make it out to Ontario on May 10<sup>th</sup> to hear GOP businessman Bill Simon's first speech to a Republican gathering, but we read the speech and the news reports about his debut. Not a bad first outing, but is Simon really the kind of candidate that Calif. Republicans are in search of – or is he just a fresh face with *deep pockets*? Here's our analysis & commentary...

...It's very obvious who played a key role in writing Simon's first public speech: Sal Russo, Simon's savvy political consultant who hopes he's found a candidate he can ride all the way to the governor's mansion in Sacramento in 2002. Nothing wrong with Russo drafting this speech, after all that's how campaign consultants earn their living...

...Like most maiden political speeches, sources believe this one will serve as an outline or roadmap of Simon's gubernatorial campaign in the months ahead. It was delivered to

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about 300 GOPers who had never seen Simon before – and they really didn't know what to expect. These GOPers had gathered at a fundraiser for GOP Senate Leader Jim Brulte of Rancho Cucamonga and it was Brulte who invited Simon. News reports say the reception was *polite*. Simon didn't deliver an old fashioned fire & brimstone speech, but it was loaded of memorable one-liners and hits aimed at the guy Simon hopes to replace – Calif. Gov. Gray Davis(D)...

...And over the course of the campaign there will undoubtedly be a key phrase or two from this first speech which will pop up repeatedly. These key lines will be the heart & soul of Simon's candidacy and his chief argument of why he should replace Davis as governor. Don't know if this is the phrase, but it would be our choice: *"What we lack, unfortunately, is a leader with the courage to speak the truth, and to do the right thing. If fundraising were the criteria, Gray Davis would be perhaps the greatest leader since Caesar. Instead, he is just like Nero – fiddling while the energy crisis is burning ratepayers and taxpayers."* Although Davis' chief political operative Garry South might disagree, these lines hits three potential problem areas for Davis: 1) leadership; 2) the energy crisis; and 3) Davis' non-stop fundraising. This last point could be serious. Simon's best one liner relating to Davis' fundraising: *After two years, it is clear that we didn't elect a Governor at all; we elected a Fundraiser in Chief...*

...And while Simon constantly bashed Davis over his handling of the State's energy crisis, sources aren't sure Simon has the answers either. While he accused Davis of offering *poll-tested slogans* and blaming others, Simon says the answer to solving the crisis is real simple: supply and conservation. Hello! That is exactly what Davis has been saying too and on Davis' watch 9 new major power plants are under construction (14 now licensed) and he's got an energy conservation program in place headed by former LADWP chief Dave Freeman, perhaps one of the most knowledgeable guys around when it comes to energy and public power...

...FYI: Simon says he'll make a decision by the end of May. Our sources say he'll make it official and run. And while he does have *deep pockets*, it will take more than money to make him acceptable. One problem area: Simon has given money to Demos over the years (including Davis, Treasurer Phil Angelides, among others). That sometimes doesn't sit well with the GOP faithful and Simon's key GOP rival, SOS Bill Jones is sure to jump on this. More in the weeks ahead. Stay tuned...

#### **COMMUNICATING WITH CALPEEK WITH E-MAIL.**

For those inclined to use it, we do have an E-mail address: calpeek@aol.com. We check our E-Mail 4-5 times a week...

#### **CAMPAIGN 2002: CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE UPDATE.**

Editor's note: Three more initiatives have been giving the green light to begin collecting signatures for the November 2002 ballot. Here's a brief update...

◆ ***Citizen Clemency Boards. Initiative Constitutional Amendment*** is the official title of this measure by Allen Jones (415)821-4044. This proposal would strip the governor of the clemency powers and establish a Calif. Clemency Board to exercise such powers. It would authorize county clemency boards to release prisoners or reduce sentences for nonviolent inmates to prevent prison overcrowding. Jones has until Sept. 17 to collect 670,816 signatures...

● ***Tobacco. Point-of-Sales Information Card. Initiative Statute*** is the official title of this proposal by Jordan Isaac Koplowicz, Yelena Belkin and Dr. Anthony Perricone. If approved, this measure would require retailers to display point-of-sales educational materials to buyers of tobacco products. The proponents have until Oct. 1 to collect 419,260 signatures...

◆ ***Legislative Term Limits. Local Voter Petitions. Initiative Constitutional Amendment*** is the official title of this proposal by Howard Owens (916)442-4474. Under this plan, registered voters in a State Senate or Assembly District could submit petitions to permit their incumbent legislator to run for reelection – for an additional 2 terms in the Assembly and for 1 additional term in the State Senate. The number of signatures would be 20% of all those who voted in the last election. Owens must collect 670,816 signatures by Oct. 1. Stay tuned...

#### **32<sup>nd</sup> CD UPDATE: POLL SHOWS BIG WATSON LEAD.**

Editor's note: Here's a brief up on the June 5<sup>th</sup> special election to replace the late Julian Dixon(D-L.A.) in the 32<sup>nd</sup> CD. This CD is a very diverse district and while some may think it's predominately African American, that's not the case at all. About a third of the voters are White and another third are Latino, with a growing Asian bloc too. Here's our update, with some new polling data...

...The newest survey for Demo frontrunner Dianne Watson shows her with a commanding lead over deep pocketed GOP businesswoman Noel Irwin Hentschel, Green Party candidate Donna Warren and Reform Party candidate Ezola Foster. The poll by Fairbank, Maslin was taken May 8-10, 400 likely voters: Watson 60%; Irwin Hentschel 15%, Warren 4%, Foster 2% and undecided 19%. This CD has a 70.7% Demo registration, so Watson is running 10-points behind registration, while Hentschel is running 3-points better than GOP registration...

... Irwin Hentschel is on cable tv with a *Noel In the Hood* :30-sec. spot. Saw it on cable tv the other night and it's not bad. The ad's aim is to soften the GOP image in the 32<sup>nd</sup> CD and while it might persuade some voters to think that Irwin Hentschel is a *moderate*, her past public statements show she's clearly a solid conservative – at least that's how she portrayed herself while running in the 1998 GOP primary for Lt. Governor. In that race against then State Sen. Tim Leslie, the *Fresno Bee*(2/20/98) profile story noted Irwin Hentschel to be pro-voucher and anti-bilingual education. In poor communities where schools aren't always as good as in other parts of the city, these stands may not hurt Hentschel. But she also supported Props. 209 (anti-affirmative action) and 187 (anti-immigration) – and those stands could hurt her in the 32<sup>nd</sup> CD. And she won't win any support from NARAL or Planned Parenthood because she's opposed to choice. Instead, she is a very strong advocate of adoption as an alternative to abortion. Whether Watson's team will use these previous stands and statements in hit mail remains to be seen...

...FYI: As **Calpeek** hit deadline, there was a \$500 per person dinner set May 18<sup>th</sup> for Irwin Hentschel in Pasadena, with former Congressman James Rogan(R-Glendale) as the honorary guest. Hentschel threw a fundraising event at her West L.A. home for Rogan last year (with U.S. Sen. John McCain), so this is payback. Stay tuned...

#### **REMAPPING CONFLICTS SPLITTING GOP U.S. HOUSE DELEGATION FROM CALIF. LEWIS QUILTS AS LEADER**

Editor's note: What you're about to read is an insider view of this current brouhaha involving Calif. GOP U.S. Reps. Bill Thomas, Gary Miller and Jerry Lewis. The cause of all the shouting, finger pointing and battered egos is the 2001 effort to redraw congressional lines – reapportionment or remapping. Here's our update & analysis...

... Thomas may be the chair of the powerful House Ways & Means Cmt., but that doesn't mean he's well liked by his fellow GOPers from Calif. He's got a number of "enemies" in the delegation and this latest blow up involving Thomas, Miller and Lewis is likely to result in a further diminishing of Thomas' stature among some CA House Republicans...

... The brouhaha began Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at the monthly CA Republican Party executive board meeting at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. The elected representative from the CA GOP Congressional delegation is Miller and it's clearly understood that if Miller is absent, his voting power goes to his district director. On May 4<sup>th</sup> Miller was absent, but Thomas was there. Remember, Thomas is **not** a voting member of the CRP executive board, but at this particular

meeting he *demand*ed to be seated in Miller's place. CRP Chair Shawn Steel had the guts to stand up to Thomas, but was persuaded to let the congressman sit in when Miller couldn't be contacted. Thomas had a letter from U.S. Rep. Jerry Lewis, head of the CA GOP congressional delegation, stating that in matters relating to reapportionment, Thomas is the one who will represent the delegation's interests...

... When the discussion turned to reapportionment, Thomas told the CRP executive committee that the "delegation is supporting" a new remapping initiative by Ted Costa of *Peoples Advocate*. For those with short memories, Costa's previous initiative dealing with remapping (*Let The People Decide*) was tossed off the ballot by the CA Supreme Court because it violated the single subject rule. The 1998 Costa initiative attempted to hide remapping behind a scheme to cut the salary of the Calif. Legislature. Thomas was a big supporter of that 1998 Costa effort...

... At the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, based on Thomas' representations, the CRP executive committee voted to recommend that the full CRP support the Costa Initiative. But when word of the CRP executive board meeting got back to DC, sources say that's when all hell broke loose. Sources say U.S. Rep. John Doolittle(R) was totally POed at Thomas and says there was *never a vote taken* on whether to support the new Costa Initiative among the Calif. GOP House delegation. Interesting...

... As a result of this mess, Lewis was caught in the middle and rather than take more heat, decided to resign as CA delegation chair (after 6 years). Don't know who will replace Lewis, but David Dreier's name has been mentioned. In terms of the CRP, sources say Miller is still the elected member representing the GOP House delegation. As for Thomas, his credibility with the Calif Republican Party is now **zero**. Stay tuned...

**NEW CALIFORNIA VOTER REGISTRATION NUMBERS**  
Calif. now has 15,577,686 registered to vote out of a total 21.6 million who are eligible. That's 72%. These numbers are based on the Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> closing date for registration.

| <u>Political Party</u> | <u>Registered Voters</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Democratic             | 7,099,243                | 45.57%         |
| Republican             | 5,414,933                | 34.76          |
| Amer. Independent      | 317,382                  | 2.04           |
| Green                  | 141,637                  | .91            |
| Libertarian            | 93,360                   | .60            |
| Natural Law            | 54,013                   | .35            |
| Reform                 | 74,050                   | .48            |
| Miscellaneous          | 134,527                  | .80            |
| Decline to State       | 2,248,541                | 14.43          |



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Calpeek is now soliciting orders for *advertising* in our new 2001-2002 **Directory of Campaign Consultants**. Advertising order forms are being sent to many (but not all) Calpeek subscribers. If you are interesting in advertising in the new Directory, please contact Calpeek Publisher Dick Rosengarten at (310)659-0205. Note to campaign consultants: we sent out a record number of questionnaires to consultants – just under 400. Thus far about 25% have been returned. Consultants who are “sitting” on those forms should fax or mail them in ASAP. If you're a consultant and haven't received a questionnaire, better call us ASAP. ...

**CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.**

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Riordan Endorses Villaraigosa** – In the last few days former Assemblyman Antonio Villaraigosa has picked up some key backing in his bid to become L.A.'s new mayor. On May 16<sup>th</sup> Villaraigosa got perhaps his biggest endorsement yet: L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan. It's unclear yet if Riordan will be able to persuade his supporters to join him, because Calpeek sources suspect that most L.A. City GOPers who bother to vote on June 5<sup>th</sup> will be with L.A. City Atty. Jim Hahn. Still, this endorsement was sought by both and Riordan does have clout in the vote-rich San Fernando Valley- a key battle ground area. In addition to Riordan, Villaraigosa picked up the endorsement of L.A. Co. Sup. Zev Yaroslavy and that should help on L.A.'s Westside and with Jewish voters. Hahn's big endorsement this past week was the L.A. Police Protective League. The momentum seems to be with Villaraigosa...

■ **U.S. Supreme Court Kills Medical Pot** – In an 8-0 ruling, the nation's high court ruled that federal law bans the distribution of marijuana to sick persons. This ruling really has the same impact as declaring that Calif.'s Prop. 215 (the Medical Marijuana Initiative) is unconstitutional. 8 other States which have similar laws are also impacted by this ruling. As noted in many news stories, enforcing this ruling may not be that easy...

■ **Another Energy Rate Hike** – Lots of yelling and screaming by both business & industry and residential consumers of PG&E, SCE and SDG&E – as the PUC on a 3-2 split voted to hike electric prices by \$5.7 billion. Those voting YES were Davis appointees Loretta Lynch, Carl Wood and Geoffrey Brown, while voting NO were Wilson appointees Henry Duque and Edward Bilas. Lots of politics here, as the original plan offered by Lynch would have had industry paying a bigger share of the costs. Under this compromise, residential users get hit harder. Duque and Bilas still think industry's share is too

high, while consumer groups are outraged too...

■ **Full Metal Jacket** – AB 1139 passed the CA Assembly on a 48-21 vote. It's not a high profile gun bill, but deals with the issue of loaning a gun. Sounds rather routine, but in Calif. it's almost impossible to legally loan a gun to a friend or for a gun collector to loan a gun to a museum. AB 1139 by Helen Thomson(D-Davis) fixes the law. But the thing which makes AB 1139 interesting is that Demo gun-grabber Paul Koretz of West Hollywood joined forces with the NRA's favorite Demo, Rod Wright of L.A., to vote and speak for AB 1139...

■ **Keep Your Eyes on AB 980** – This bill by freshman Assemblywoman Fran Pavley(D-Agoura Hills) will require those persons who circulate petitions (for initiatives and voter registration) be paid by the hour – not by the number of signatures they collect. When there's not much pressure, initiative petition circulators get anywhere from \$.50 to \$.75 per signature. When there's a rush (deadlines are tight), the fee per signature can jump to \$2-4 or more. And the higher the price the more likely there could be fraud...

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